

# Hurricane Harvey Scams

Hurricane Harvey is being reported as the worst flooding disaster in over 500 years. Sadly, it is being exploited by scammers as the latest scheme to steal money or data from unsuspecting individuals. Those interested in providing support to the victims of Hurricane Harvey should be equipped with the know-how to identify a scam.

The United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) is warning people to be on the lookout for potential scams sent in the form of emails, texts or websites looking to collect donations. US-CERT encourages people to use caution when encountering these types of messages and take the following preventative measures to protect themselves from phishing scams and malware campaigns:

- Always use caution when opening email attachments or links, and make sure your antivirus software is up to date
- Verify the legitimacy of any email solicitation by contacting the organization directly through a trusted contact number. You can find trusted contact information for many charities on the BBB National Charity Report Index found here: <http://give.org/charity-reviews/national>
- Review the Federal Trade Commission's information on Wise Giving in the Wake of Hurricane Harvey found here: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2017/08/wise-giving-wake-hurricane-harvey>